

## AUSTRIAN DEFEAT BECOMES GREAT DISASTER May Change Entire Plans of the Central Powers

### ENEMY IN RETREAT ALONG WHOLE LINE BEFORE ITALIANS

More Than Forty Thousand Prisoners Taken On One Front In Past Few Days

### MY DETACHMENT TO SMALL FRONT

River In Pursuit Of  
Retirement  
General

(Press)—The defeat of the Piave front by the Italian army has been a disaster of the war to date, a defeat so complete and overwhelming that its effect may be very great in its general results upon the Central Powers.

#### KILLED OR DRIVEN BACK

Every Austrian along the west bank of the Piave has been killed, driven back or captured except along a small front near Mussile, where a detachment, its retreat cut off, is maintaining a forlorn hope defense, ringed about by the exultant Italians.

Hope for the invaders who had crossed the river was lost early yesterday when Italian airplanes bombed the remaining bridges and destroyed them, effectually separating this section of the Austrian army from any help in the way of reinforcement and cutting off its chances of being supplied with munitions. These Austrians thus faced the alternative of surrendering or of attempting to rejoin their comrades on the east bank by swimming the swollen waters. Many hundreds attempted this latter, the great majority of them being killed as they swam by Italian bullets or drowned. Thousands surrendered.

#### ITALIANS PURSUE HOTLY

A large force of Italian cavalry crossed the main Piave early in the day, these horsemen hanging on to the rear of the retreating army, cutting off stragglers, overpowering rearguards and permitting the fleeing foe no opportunity for rest or for reforming for any adequate resistance to the Italian infantry, now pressing hotly forward in pursuit.

The Italians crossed the old channel of the Piave early yesterday morning and recaptured several of their old positions along the west bank of the main stream, while from Campolite other detachments pressed forward towards the river, driving the Austrians before them and meeting with only slight resistance. Immediately the first section of the main Italian army reached the river, strong bombing detachments were sent across, these fighting their way along the east bank of the river toward the remaining bridgeheads held by the Austrians. At the same time the Italian aircraft commenced a heavy bombardment of these bridgeheads and the Italian big guns concentrated their fire upon the bridges.

#### GENERAL ADVANCE MADE

Under this systematic hammering of their only avenues of retreat and the furious pressure being brought upon their front by the Italians, the Austrians began to fall back all along the line, while the main Austrian army, on the east of the Piave began also to retreat. This movement was observed by the Italian air scouts and word of it was the signal for a general Italian advance, an advance that swept the whole Piave line except at the one point at Mussile, where an Austrian detachment is making a last, hopeless stand.

#### AUSTRIANS ABANDON ALL

The Austrians abandoned their guns and supplies, the Italians taking "enormous booty", according to the official despatches of General Diaz.

General Diaz, reporting last night, says that the Austrian retreat continued throughout all of yesterday, with the Italians pursuing. A terrific fire is being maintained by the pursuers, with the hastily formed rear guards being overpowered and swept up.

Despatches from Rome last night say that Italy is ablaze with enthusiasm over the overwhelming defeat of the much advertised great Austrian offensive and celebrating in joy the movement which is now driving the enemy from Italian soil. The defeat of General Cadorna is now thought to be amply avenged, with the tables completely turned.

### MORAL EFFECT IS LIKELY TO PROVE GREATEST VALUE

Germany Is Placed In Predicament By Ally's Defeat and Must Act Quickly

LLOYD GEORGE WARNS  
BLOW MAY BE EXPECTED

Allies Are Heartened and News In Austria and Germany Will Break Spirit

WASHINGTON, June 25.—(Associated Press)—Among all of the Allies and in the weaker and oppressed countries the news of the Italian victory and Austrian disaster, considered to be one of the most severe of the war, has been joyously received and the opinion generally prevails that its moral and political effect will be as great or greater than its physical value to the Allied cause. It is believed, however, that it will be a spur to Germany to put forth its greatest efforts in a new phase of its offensive on the Western front in the hope of retrieving something of the damage done and minimizing its moral and political effect at home and in the countries of its allies.

#### May Expect Blow

This thought was expressed by the British premier, David Lloyd George yesterday when he said: "The next couple of months will be anxious ones for us and our Allies. It might be that the great blow which we expect will be delivered against us in a few hours or it may be a few days. The issue of the campaign may even depend upon the outcome of that thrust but the Allies never felt better prepared to meet it than now."

"I quite agree that it would be to our interests to stand by Russia if Russia desires us to but this is difficult because of the chaotic conditions in that country."

Then advertising to the Italian victory the premier continued: "The Italian victory may yield us and our allies infinitely greater results for it is hourly appearing bigger as we learn more of the details. Austria used its entire available strength and more than half of its effective troops in this effort, and has lost. The Italians have inflicted upon the Austrians one of the greatest disasters of the war."

"Three-fifths of the population of Austria was out of sympathy with its war aims before and now that majority will be further increased."

Allies Are Heartened  
In Washington it is regarded as certain that the Austrian defeat is of such magnitude that it will compel a complete readjustment of the plans of the central powers. Germany will have a most difficult problem if it undertakes to reinforce its ally. Transportation of enough troops to make such support effective would be necessarily slow, its immediate support would greatly weaken its own hopes of a successful outcome to the offensive of the Western front and might cause its abandonment.

Italian officials here were greatly cheered by the news of the success of their armies. Some military observers incline to the belief that Germany will attempt to relieve her ally while others express the opinion that an immediate renewal of the Western front offensive is now Germany's only hope.

Advices from Rome declare that there is the utmost confidence prevalent there and the belief is expressed that the war can be brought to a victorious end within a year if the Allies will stand by the Italians and give them full support, according to wireless messages.

In the London press the victory is described as the most heartening news of months, perhaps since the victory at the Marne.

#### May Rouse Revolts

It is generally agreed that the moral effect will be enormous, coming at a time when the people of Austria are near the starvation point and the country riddled by labor troubles and industrial difficulties and disputes. With the news of the disaster, this condition will be greatly magnified and its control will be difficult in the extreme if not impossible.

Reports from Austria say the internal plight is growing steadily worse. The Vienna Arbeiter Zeitung, as told in a Zurich dispatch, says the strike has become general. It is reported that the strikers are demanding, as one of their issues, immediate peace and an invitation to the countries with which they are at war to enter upon negotiations for a cessation of hostilities.

In Germany there are disturbances on a smaller but still serious scale. Extensive strikes in Cologne, Mueselheim and other cities on the Rhine are reported, caused by a reduction of the bread ration, as the disturbances started in Austria.

Meatless weeks are reported to be under consideration in Germany where the present weekly ration is only half a pound a person.

HOW Sammy fights gas. This photo illustrates how the gas flappers, an American innovation, are used to clear trenches of gas. After an attack the men beat the floor of their trench with the flappers, causing the clouds of deadly fumes to rise and scatter to the four winds. The photo was made at Camp Kearny, California.



### SAMMIES CLEAR WOODS OF LAST OF TEUTONS

Capture Machine Guns and Prisoners. Improve Positions Under Fire and Repulse Raids In Various Sectors

WASHINGTON, June 25.—(Associated Press)—American forces in the Marne sector of the Western front are continuing their advance against the foe. Yesterday they captured the northwestern part of Belleau Wood, the only portion still held by the Teutons and are now in full possession of the positions. In the fighting the Americans took five machine guns and a number of prisoners and made sure the woods were effectually cleared of the foe.

#### Positions Improved

In his communique of last evening General Pershing said the Americans had improved their positions in the Chateau Thierry sector in the face of a heavy artillery fire and that in the Vosges sector an enemy raid had been repulsed.

In the light of the American advances and of General Pershing's report the Germans again advance their posterous claims in the Berlin official report of last night in which they say that "inflicted heavy losses upon and took prisoners from the French and Americans in the Badonvillers sector."

May Rouse Revolts  
Maj. Theodore Roosevelt and 132 others, members of the first division of two field artillery batteries have been cited for bravery.

Casualties reported yesterday were eight killed in action, four dead of wounds, two of disease, 45 severely wounded and three wounded to a degree not yet determined.

Aviators In Italy  
On the Italian front the American aviators who went from the naval aviation training camp into active service are reported to have distinguished themselves and to have performed important services. They are said to have displayed great bravery in their first encounters with the enemy and contributed notably to the disorganization of the foe.

#### CZECHO-SLOVAKS WILL SOON SERVE WITH ALLIES

LONDON, June 24.—(Associated Press)—Advices here say that a Czecho-Slovak official is in Tokio arranging for the transportation of countrymen who wish to come to the United States and join the war against Germany. They will be brought from Vladivostok to France.

### BRAZIL IS AIDING TO THWART GERMANY

Ships Patrol Atlantic Side By Side With British and American; Sends Much Food

LONDON, June 25.—(Associated Press)—Brazil is actively in the war and is doing its best to cooperate with the Allies and lend them all comfort and assistance, is the word that is brought here by Admiral de Mattos, chief of the Brazilian naval mission which has arrived here.

In a statement given through the press yesterday the Brazilian admiral said that Brazilian war ships were now patrolling the waters of the Atlantic side by side with the vessels of Great Britain and the United States to clear the seas of submarines and make shipping safe.

Brazil is also doing its best to provide supplies, to transport them and to guard them in transit. Plenty of meat and cereals are thus being sent, he said.

W. S. S.

### WESTERN FRONT IS GENERALLY QUIET

Minor Operations Told In Reports—Offensive Waited

NEW YORK, June 25.—(Associated Press)—Minor operations continue to be the only activities on the Western front with no indication given by the enemy of an intention of early resumption of the offensive.

Following their encounter with the Italian forces on Mont Bligny in which for a time they were successful and then repulsed and driven out, losing in a counter later, the Germans again attacked this Italian sector in the night and were once more repulsed. Paris despatches said. Repulse of a German attack near Anteuville was also reported.

British activities were confined to raids and a minor engagement near Meteren where some prisoners were taken.

W. S. S.

### CONNAUGHT PRESENTS BATON TO THE MIKADO

TOKIO, June 24.—(Associated Press)—Prince Arthur of Connaught, head of the British mission here, today presented to the Japanese emperor the field marshal's baton as a mark of respect for the ruler of Japan and of friendship between the two countries.

### MUNITIONS FOUND IN GRAIN IN OLD IRELAND

Shipment Is Believed To Have Been Received Some Time Since and To Confirm Evidence Police Secured Of Plot

DUBLIN, June 25.—(Associated Press)—Forty thousand rounds of ammunition, concealed in a cargo of grain, have been seized by the police. It is believed that this grain, and the contraband munitions which were found concealed in it, is a part of a cargo received some time since and its discovery corroborates evidence which, in part, alleged to the arrest of Sinn Féin leaders and then to arrests by the score. Evidence seized when the Sinn Féin leaders were arrested indicated that munitions and arms were to be smuggled in as a part of a pro-German plot. Details were to have been completed upon the arrival in Ireland of a German agent from a submarine and it has been reported that he did arrive and was arrested before he could meet his fellow conspirators.

The full power of the Irish pro-German plot was to be, the evidence is said to reveal, manifested with the success of the German offensive on the western front.

W. S. S.

### GENERAL CELEBRATION OF FOURTH PLANNED

WASHINGTON, June 24.—(Official)—Inter Allied and neutral people throughout the United States are making extensive plans for their participation in the celebration of Independence Day. In many of the cities of the country foreign born residents are being given leading parts in the programs that are being arranged.

In addition to the British, French and Italians who are participating, there will be Japanese and Chinese, Belgians, Serbians, Rumanians, Russians, Czechoslovaks, Swedish, Norwegians, Danes, Portuguese, Spaniards, Greeks, Poles, Armenians and many other nationalities.

W. S. S.

### CIVIL SUNDRY BILL IS PASSED BY LOWER HOUSE

WASHINGTON, June 24.—(Associated Press)—The House this afternoon passed the sundry civil appropriations bill, totaling two and one-half billions of dollars.

### PLOTS TO HIDE PROPERTIES OF ENEMY ALLEGED BY CUSTODIAN

Says He Has Three Instances Where Corporations Attempted To Sell To American Corporations Receiving Only Notes

STATEMENTS FALSIFIED  
AS TO FOE HOLDINGS

Notes Were Accepted In Expectation That War Would End Before They Fell Due and Property Would Revert Back

NEW YORK, June 25.—(Associated Press)—Plots to hide enemy assets in the United States under the cloak of American corporations were last night revealed by A. Mitchell Palmer, custodian of enemy property. He charges that Americans were involved in these conspiracies and that returns were falsified so as to show that no enemy property was held.

Custodian Palmer says that he has three instances of such efforts to conceal enemy property or to make arrangements such that the property would be restored to the enemy intact at the close of the war.

In his statement the custodian says that three German owned companies planned to sell their assets to American corporations without cash consideration but for notes which were not to be payable for three years, it being hoped or believed that before those notes should fall due the war would be ended and the property could be passed back to the present enemy owners with accretions and profits.

He also alleges that these three corporations falsified their returns so as to show, after such attempted sales, that no enemy property was held.

W. S. S.

### RAPID GROWTH OF NAVY IS REPORTED

Personnel of All Forces In That Branch of Service Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand

WASHINGTON, June 24.—(Official)—Rapid growth in the navy is reported by Secretary Daniels who today gave out figures on its personnel, officers and men. Enlistments are coming faster than ever, the week ending June 6, having surpassed all previous records with 14,406 volunteers.

There are now slightly more than 450,000 officers and men in the service of the navy, 423,808 enlisted men and 26,285 officers. The totals of the various departments or divisions which go to make up this grand total are regular navy 215,000, naval reserves 103,209, nation volunteers 15,755, marines corps 49,869 and coast guards 6288.

Since the first publication of the successes won by the marine corps in its fighting in France the recruiting offices have been crowded with young men who are enthusiastically anxious to join that branch of the service.

W. S. S.

### PACIFIC COAST TO GET GREAT STEEL PLANTS

SAN FRANCISCO, June 24.—(Official)—Great steel mills are to be erected on the Pacific Coast designed to meet the demands of the wonderful shipbuilding industry that has grown up and which now leads the world.